

## **25. Crushed Between Two Vehicles**

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A **36-year-old** mechanic was crushed between two vehicles while changing tires on one of the vehicles. A truck was placed in one bay of the facility and new tires were placed on the rear axle. After servicing of the truck was complete, several attempts were made to start the truck so it could be removed from the bay. Starting the truck started was unsuccessful and two co-workers of the victim tried other methods to start the truck. Ultimately, one co-worker used a remote starter tool on the truck's solenoid while the other co-worker held a flashlight for him. By doing this, they bypassed the neutral safety switch located between the ignition switch and the starter. After hitting the remote starter button multiple times, the truck finally started and moved in reverse. The neutral safety switch was installed by the manufacturer to limit the ability of an automatic transmission to start in any gear other than park or neutral. While this was occurring, the victim was standing in the same bay at the engine area of a van and lifting the front to prepare it for new tires. The van was approximately 20 feet behind the truck. When the truck moved in reverse, the victim was unable to move from his work station and was struck by the truck and crushed between the truck and the van. He died later the same day.

### **Citation(s) as Originally Issued**

A complete inspection was conducted of the facility. Thus, some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

#### **Citation 1**

Item 1 T.C.A. 50-3-105(1)	The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that employees were exposed to a struck-by hazard due to failure to follow manufacturer's and industry guidelines when using a remote starter.
Item 2 1910.23(c)(1)	Every open-sided floor or platform four feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level was not guarded by a standard railing (or the equivalent) on all open sides except where there is an entrance to a ramp.

#### **Citation 2**

TDLWD Rule 0800-1-9-.06(2)	The employer failed to ensure that work areas in which non-containerized hazardous chemicals were generated or produced as a result of the process or operation taking place in such work areas contained a sign or placard identifying the hazardous chemical(s) and appropriate hazard warnings.
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**See Photos on Next Page**



The victim was crushed between the back of the truck and the front of the van

